Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 1 under the heading "Cross-reference to related applications" with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/300,657, filed on April 27, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 08/743,885, filed on November 6, 1996, which claims priority to and the benefit of ~~is entitled under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)(1) to the filing dates of earlier co-pending provisional applications~~ U.S.S.N. 60/006,259, filed on November 7, 1995, [[and]] U.S.S.N. 60/025,284, filed on September 19, 1996, and U.S.S.N. 60/009,983, filed on January 16, 1996. The entire disclosures of each of these applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The portion of the lower segment which lies within the bladder when the stent is in proper anatomic position (Fig. 7 point D to point E) is important to both comfort and function. Proximal migration can be controlled by using asymmetrical lengths of the thread pairs, with one pair being 2 cm longer than[[t]] the other pair, so that the fused junction 810 of these threads tends to intersect with the ureteral orifice 814 at an[[d]] angle (e.g., ~90°) with the stiffened area 815 having a length of 6 mm (see detail Fig. 8A~~B~~). In the ideally fitted stent of this embodiment, the thread pairs will extend beyond the ureteral orifice (Fig. 7 point D) by 1 cm at the short limb 820 and 3 cm at the long limb 825. However, this lower segment configuration allows for considerable tolerance in sizing (unlike unsecured independent threads which must be selected to have a length so as to avoid upward migration of the thread through the ureteral orifice 814) and a chosen length which is 1 cm shorter or 2-3 cm longer than the ideal length should be satisfactory. Using this configuration the threads should form a continuous loop 828 of 3.5 cm length to prevent free ends from poking the bladder wall or prolapsing through the urethra. Buoyant threads may add to patient comfort, because they will float away from the

trigone region of the bladder, where most of the sensory nerve fibers are located. A typical small gauge filament extraction thread 830 may be attached to the longer limb 825 of the thread pairs, which is a suitable pulling point for removal.

Please replace the abstract on page 27 with the following amended paragraph:

A ureteral stent for assisting movement of urine along a patient's ureter and into the patient's bladder. The stent includes an elongated tubular segment extending toward the bladder from a kidney end region for placement in the renal cavity to a bladder end region. A central lumen connects at least one opening at the first end region to at least one opening in the bladder end region. Thin flexible tail(s) are attached to the bladder end region of the tubular segment at a point outside the bladder so as to receive urine from the opening in the bladder end region ~~of the tubular segment~~ and to transport urine from there across the ureter/bladder junction and into the bladder. The tails include an elongated external urine-transport surface ~~sized and~~ configured to transport urine ~~along the ureter~~. The ~~urine~~ transporting surface(s) are ~~sized and~~ configured to extend along at least part of the ureter, across the ureter/bladder junction, and ~~from there~~ into the bladder.